Bio-Warfare

29. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that bio-warfare or bio-terrorism is the deliberate use of living organisms to kill people;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that economic policies based on trade liberalization and globalisation deliberately spread fatal and infectious diseases such as AIDS, TB and Malaria and by dismantling health and medical systems, they too become instruments of bio-terror; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Economic liberalization and globalisation is designed to enhance the inflow of scarce resource and provide an impetus to development through growth of domestic markets, opening of international market, access to new technology and improvement in production methods. All imported eatables are subjected to examinations in designated food laboratories as per the PFA Rules. On receipt of satisfactory report they are released by the Customs authorities for consumption.

(c) Question does not arise.

Impact of GMOs

30. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that since the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) have not existed in nature, their impact on the environment and on human health;

(b) whether Government are also aware that ignorance of the impact is being treated as proof of safety, which is totally unscientific approach; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Genetic transformation can take place in nature but the probability of such transformation is extremely low. Moreover, the transformed host has to survive under natural conditions. It is usually extremely difficult for a transformed host to survive because it requires the most favourable condition